



July 31, 1978

ARIZONA STATE PARKS

Gwinn Vivian
Arizona State Museum
University of Arizona
Tucson, AZ 85721

NATURAL AND
CULTURAL
RESOURCE
CONSERVATION
SECTION

Dear Dr. Vivian:

A copy of the National Register form for the Pima County Courthouse is enclosed. The building was placed on the National Register June 23rd.

1688 WEST ADAMS STREET
PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85007
TELEPHONE 602-271-4174

Bruce Babbitt



GOVERNOR

MICHAEL A. RAMNES
DIRECTOR

DOROTHY H. HALL
SECTION CHIEF
STATE HISTORIC
PRESERVATION OFFICER

MARJORIE H. WILSON
HISTORIAN

JAMES W. GARRISON
HISTORICAL ARCHITECT

PATRICIA BERGTHOLD
NATURAL AREAS AND
TRAILS COORDINATOR

Sincerely,

Marjorie H. Wilson
Registrar

For Dorothy H. Hall
State Historic
Preservation Officer

MHW:sw

ARIZ. BB:13:118

Card by Sharon F. Urban
August 9, 1978

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

ARIZ BB: 13:118

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Pima County Courthouse
AND/OR COMMON

FINAL
JUNE 2011
FROM SHPO

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
115 North Church

CITY, TOWN
Tucson

STATE
Arizona

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF
CODE
04

2
COUNTY
Pima

CODE
019

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Pima County Board of Supervisors

STREET & NUMBER
131 West Congress

CITY, TOWN
Tucson

VICINITY OF

STATE
Arizona

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Pima County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER
115 North Church

CITY, TOWN
Tucson

STATE
Arizona

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Spanish Colonial Revival courthouse has many characteristics of the style: low-pitched red tiled roof, arches, plastered walls, elaborate ornamentation around doorways, doors flanked by pilasters, balconies, and arcaded post-and-lintel type portales.

The building is U-shaped with the two wings connected by an arcade with bracketed beams to form a quadrangle. The entry, both from the street and from the courtyard, is churrigueresque. Balconies have carved ornamentation. First and second story arcades look onto the courtyard.

The most prominent feature of the building is its elegant blue-tiled dome which tops a large central tower. The base of the tower is octagonal with a carved parapet decorated with finials and there are finials at the base of the dome. The parapet cornice is denticulated. On top of the dome is a copper lantern with finial.

Pima County is presently in Phase II of a three-phase renovation of the Court House. The philosophy behind the renovation has been to alter the interior for increased functional capabilities while keeping the exterior appearance intact except for minor restorations.

The north and south wings of the building are two stories high. The center is three stories high. It supports a dome that is 32 feet in diameter and towers 100 feet over downtown Tucson. The dome is covered with blue, yellow and green tile. There is also a 55-by-128-foot basement.

Constructed by general contractor Herbert Brown for a cost of \$300,000, the external walls and floor are built of reinforced concrete and plaster on the outside. The exterior ornamental work is done in cast stone. The windows are steel-framed.

Essentially, the Court House has undergone three remodelings since it was built. In 1956, a south wing was added on to accommodate the expanding courts function at a cost of \$460,000. The south wing addition, designed by Blanton and Cole, was constructed by the M.M. Sundt Construction Company.

In 1965, the north wing of the Court House was remodelled for removal of the jail to make more room for courtrooms. In November 1975, Pima County completed Phase I of a three phase remodelling program. This was done at a price of \$875,665. Architects for this renovation are the Anderson Associates. The general contractor is Metz Construction.

Currently, the Court House provides office space for three departments of Pima County: assessor, treasurer, and recorder. The justice courtrooms are here as well as the County Grand Jury. The Grand Jury will soon be relocated in the Pima Governmental Center.

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD

- PREHISTORIC
- 1400-1499
- 1500-1599
- 1600-1699
- 1700-1799
- 1800-1899
- 1900-

- ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC
- ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC
- AGRICULTURE
- ARCHITECTURE
- ART
- COMMERCE
- COMMUNICATIONS

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING | <input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION | <input type="checkbox"/> LAW | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS | <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE | <input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY | <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER |
| <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION |
| <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION | | |

SPECIFIC DATES

1929

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Roy Place

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Most of the county courthouses in Arizona resemble those throughout the country and are based on European architectural design. The design for the Pima Courthouse, however, developed from the Panama-California Exposition in San Diego and is the most outstanding Spanish Colonial Revival building in Arizona.

Roy Place (1889-1950), prominent local architect, designed a great number and variety of buildings in Tucson including hotels, theaters, office buildings, stores, houses, clinics, schools, a convent, and 25 buildings for the University of Arizona. He also designed the Cochise County Courthouse and a number of public buildings in other Arizona cities. His Spanish Colonial Revival design for the Pima County Courthouse is far more appropriate to its setting than the boxy modern office buildings which now surround it.

Plans for the new courthouse were put up for sale in December of 1928. The general contractor was Herbert F. Brown of Tucson who bid \$180,876 for the job. J. Knox Corbett's bid of \$18,249 for the plumbing and heating was accepted, and the electrical contract went to the Grabe Electric Company, which bid \$4,234. The County Board of Supervisors was overjoyed that the bids were lower than expected and used the surplus to pay for the paper lantern and the tile for the dome.

The old courthouse on the same site was left intact until enough of the new offices were completed for the county employees to move into. The old building was then demolished when the new one was completed in December of 1929.

During construction, portions of the city wall of 1776 were unearthed beneath the southeast corner of the foundation. The wall had been constructed under the direction of General Juan Bautista de Anza when the presidio garrison was transferred from Tubac to Tucson. Part of the old city wall was saved and is displayed on the second floor directly above where it was excavated.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Arizona Historical Society. Clipping file.
 Hinton, Harwood. Interview. June 21, 1977.
 Kelly, James. Interview. June 7, 1977.
 Lew Place. Correspondence. 1977
 Pima County. Records
 Tucson Citizen. 1928, 1929.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.04

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,2	5,0,2	6,2,0	3,5	6,5	10,6,0	B	1,2	5,0,2	6,3,0	3,5	6,4	9,1,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING
C	1,2	5,0,2	5,7,0	3,5	6,4	9,0,0	D	1,2	5,0,2	5,4,0	3,5	6,5	0,3,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Pueblo Center Redevelopment Project Arizona R-8 Block 503 Lot 6. Bounded on the North by Alameda, on the South by Pennington, on the East by Church Avenue. West boundary is the lot containing the City Council Chambers.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Marjorie Wilson, Historian
Andrew C. Williamson, Administrative Assistant
 ORGANIZATION Arizona State Parks DATE September 21, 1977
Pima County Board of Supervisors June 24, 1977
 STREET & NUMBER 688 West Adams Street TELEPHONE 271-4174
Pima County Courthouse 782-8126
 CITY OR TOWN Phoenix STATE _____
Tucson Arizona

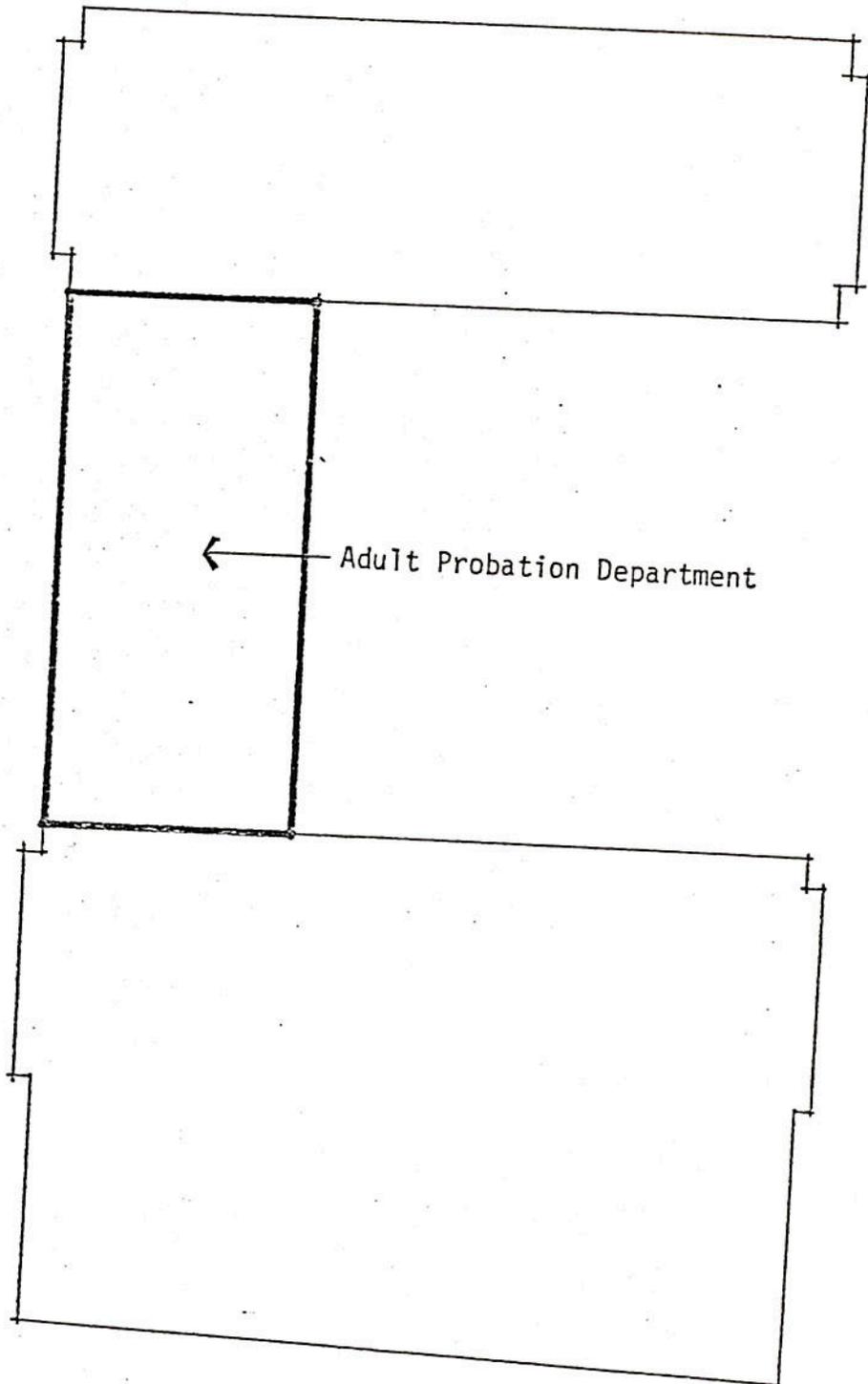
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:
 NATIONAL XX STATE _____ LOCAL _____

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE *Donna H. Hull*
 TITLE _____ DATE 9-21-77

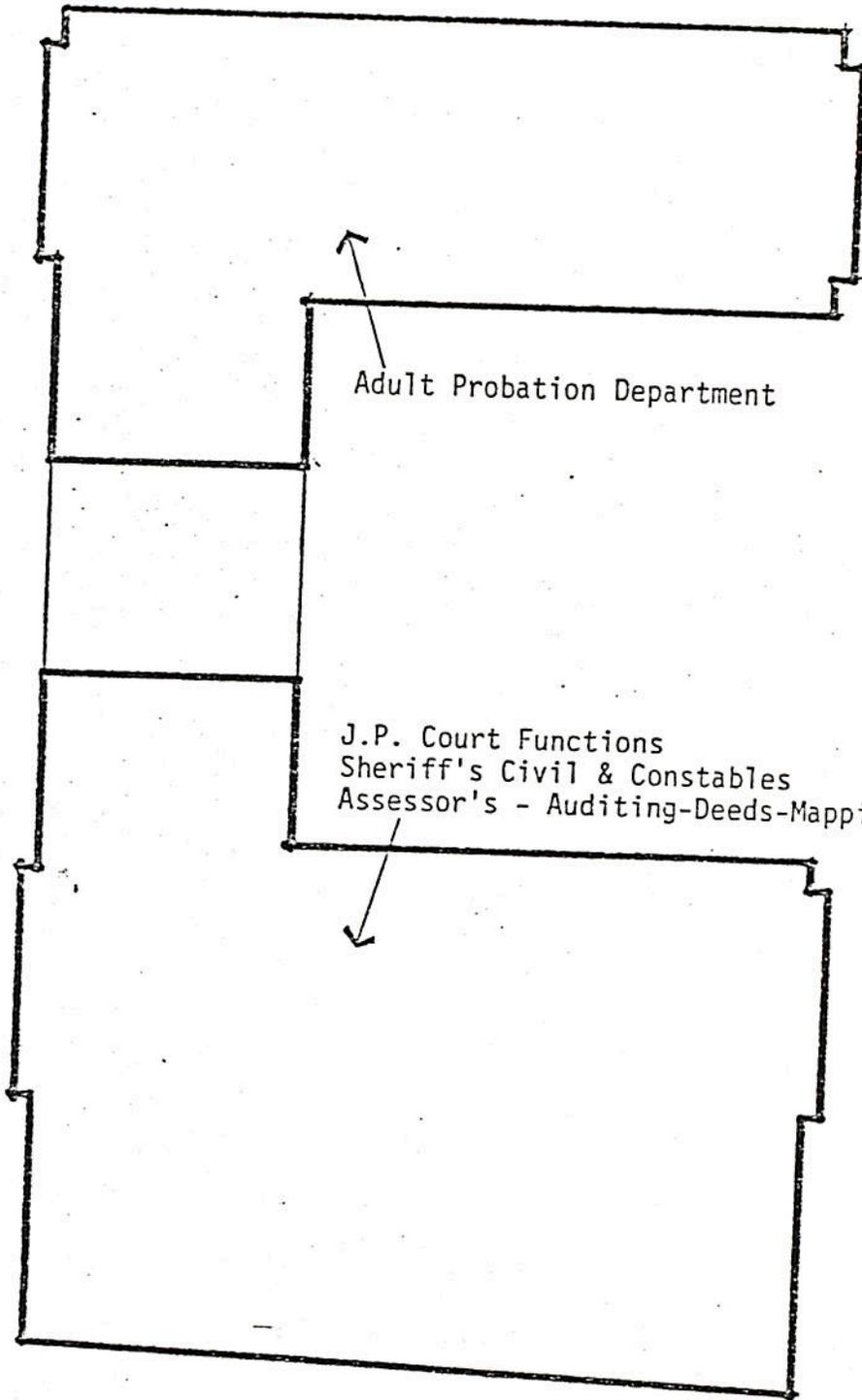
NPS USE ONLY
 I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER
 DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION DATE _____
 EST: _____
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER DATE _____



Phase I *Completed*
~~STEP 2~~ CONSTRUCTION (CONTINUED)

Location - 3rd Level - Pima County Courthouse

Note: This is a continuation of previous sheet

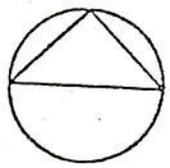
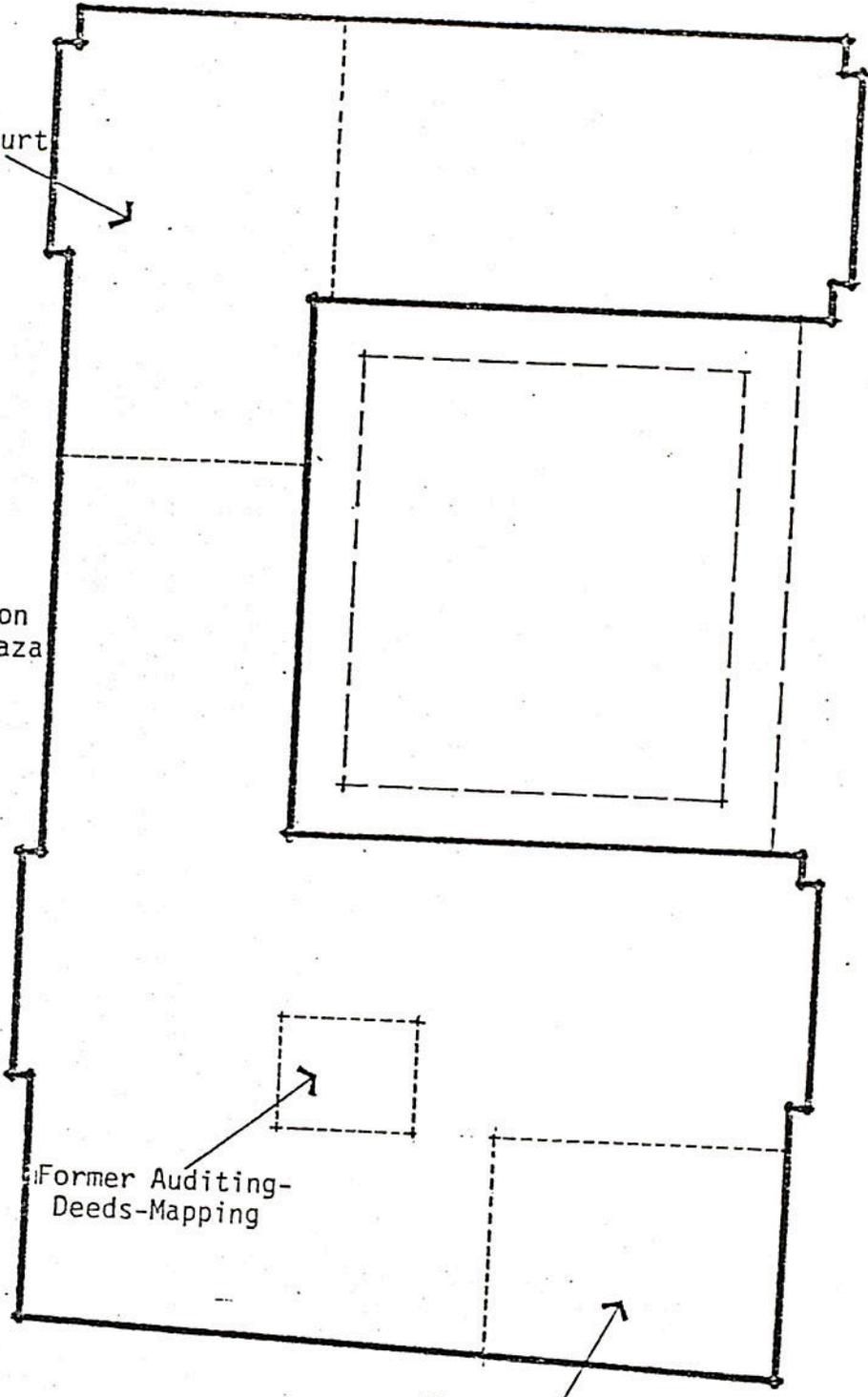


Phase I *completed*
~~STEP~~ 2 - CONSTRUCTION

Location - 2nd Level - Pima County Courthouse

Former Superior Court

Construction to begin on connection to El Presidio Plaza



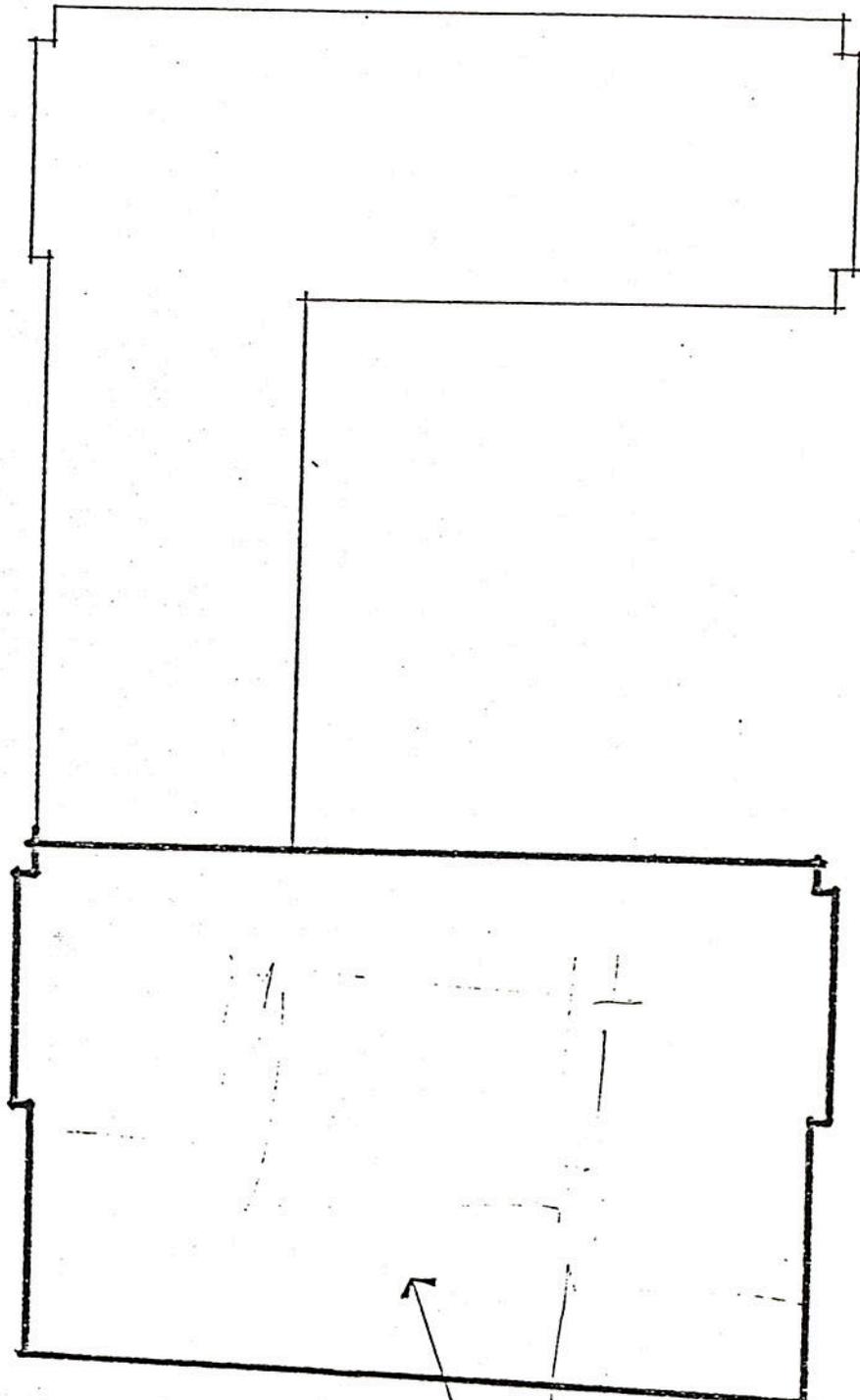
Former Auditing-Deeds-Mapping

Former Superior Court

Phase II
~~STEP 3~~ CONSTRUCTION

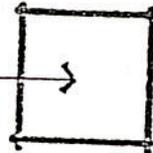
In progress

Location - Ground Level Pima County Courthouse



Renovation Basement Level

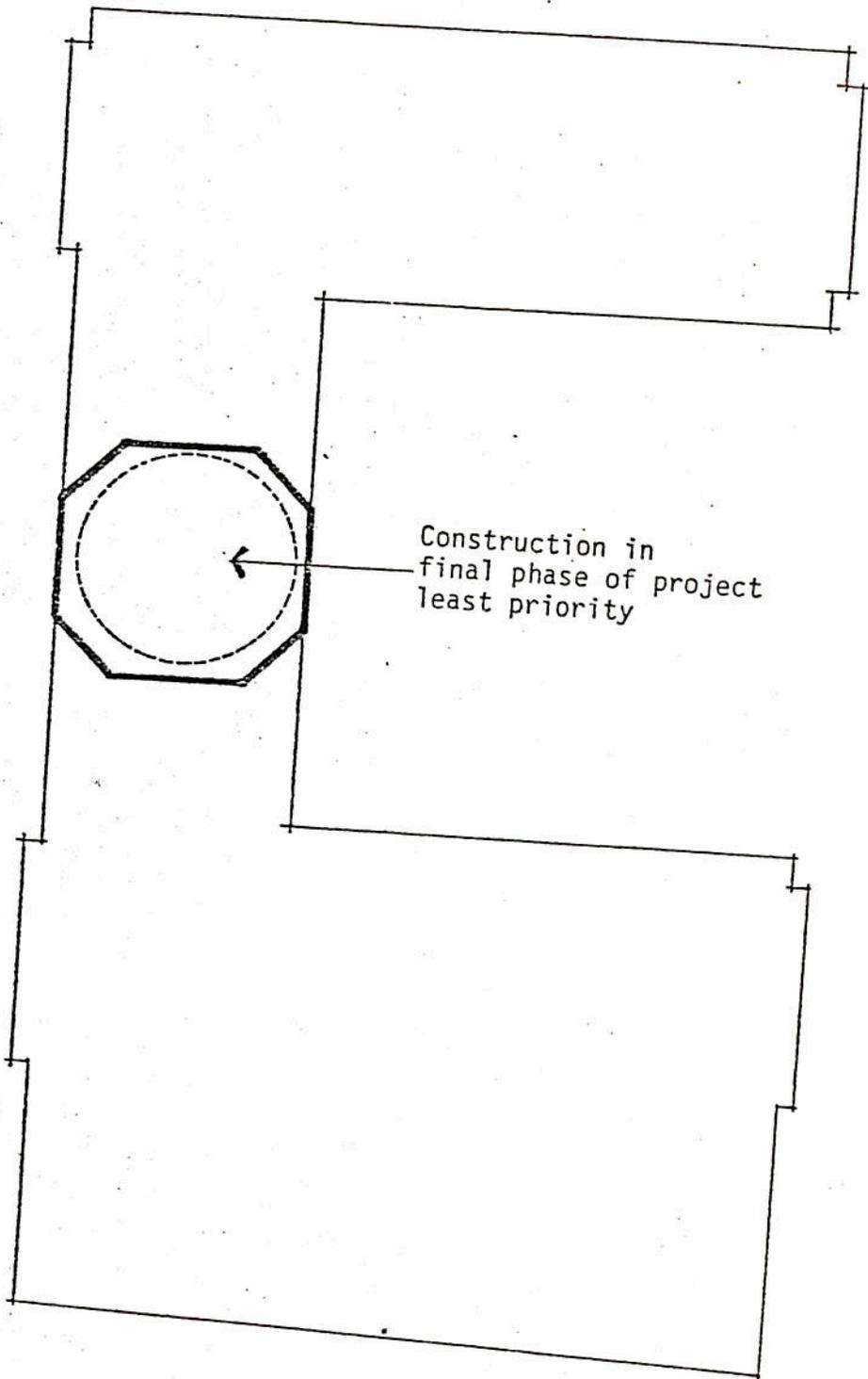
Connection to
central plant
utility system



Phase II

~~STEP 1~~ CONSTRUCTION

Location - Basement Level Pima County Courthouse
Pima County Parking Garage



Construction in
final phase of project
least priority

SUCCEEDING CONSTRUCTION

Location - 4th Level Pima County Courthouse
Dome Pima County Courthouse

Pima County Courthouse
Arizona
artist's concept
Date: 1928
Negative at Az Historical Society

#1

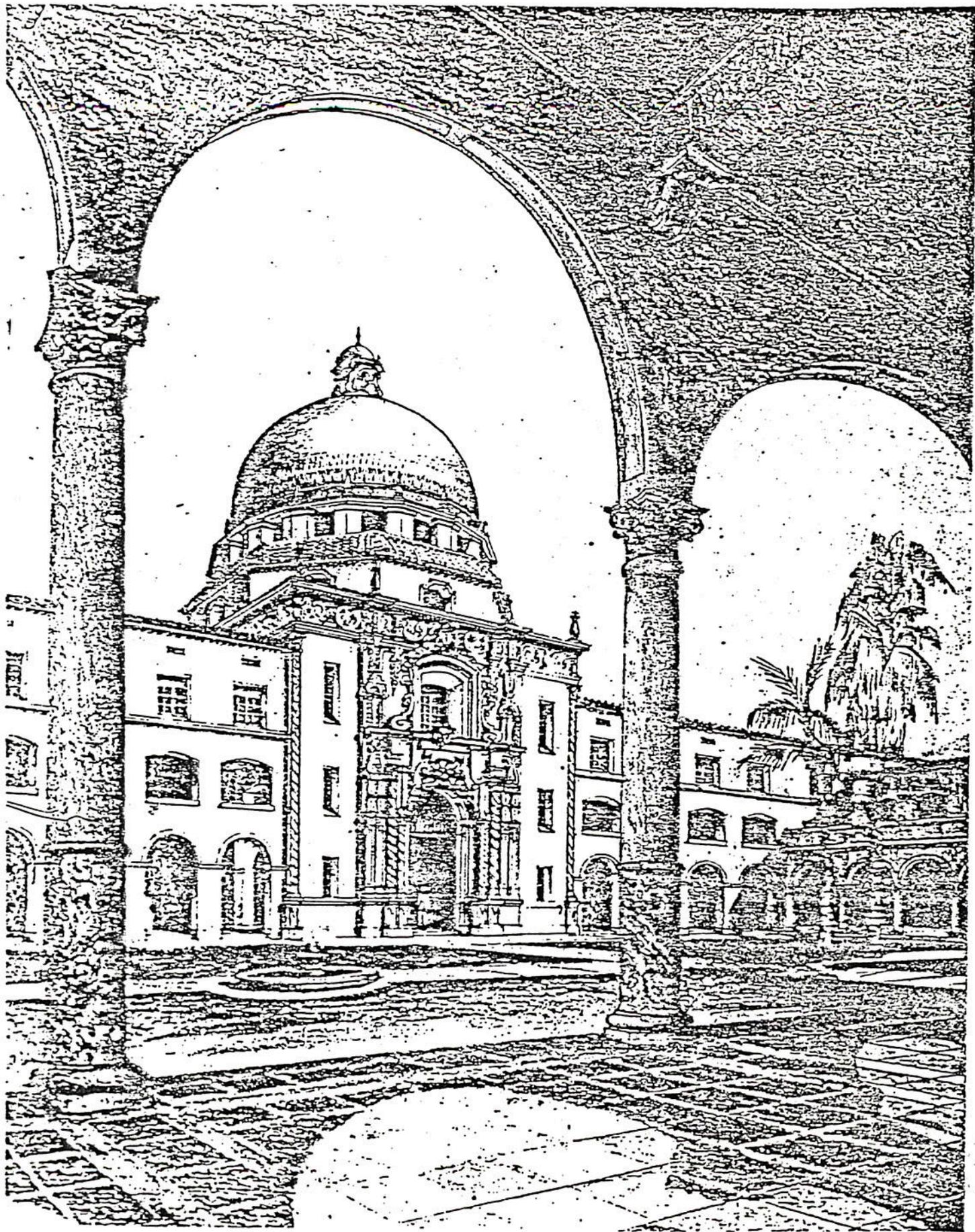
- COPY 10462.
Reproduction from
the Arizona Historical
Society Library.

Pima County Court
House

COMMERCIAL USE FEE \$10.00

All published pictures must

credit: Arizona Historical Society





Pima County Court House

1934

Handwritten text, possibly "Pima County Court House"

Arizona Historical Society

Pima County Courthouse
Arizona
Looking N.W.
Date: 1934
Negative at Az Historical Society

#2

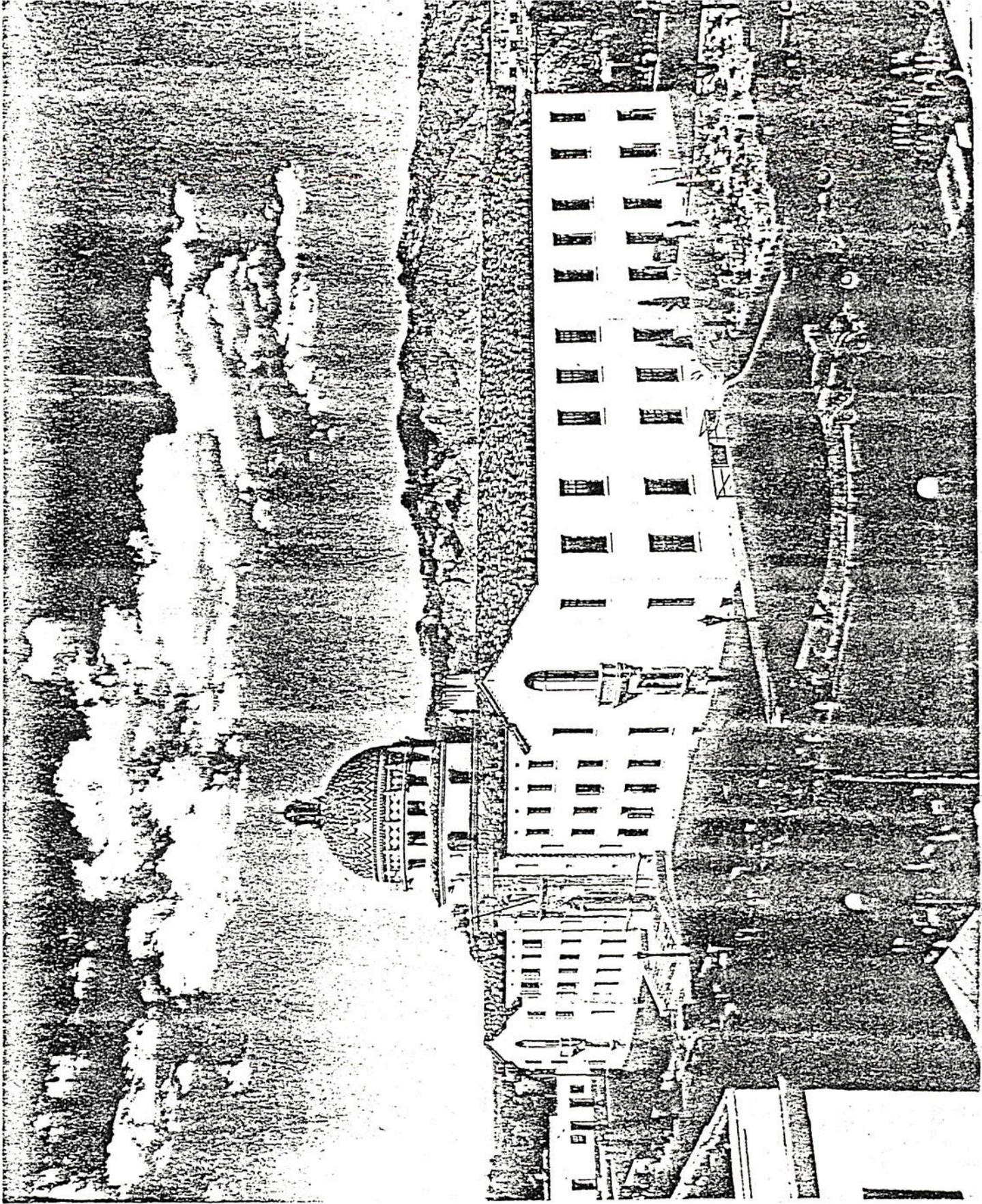
COPY 5374

Reproduction from
the Arizona Historical
Society Library.

Pima County Court
House

COMMERCIAL USE FEE \$10.00

All published pictures must
credit: Arizona Historical Society



June, 1977

looking West

Photo by A.C. Williamson, Pima County Board
of Supervisors

Neg on file e Arizona Historical Society
Tucson, AZ

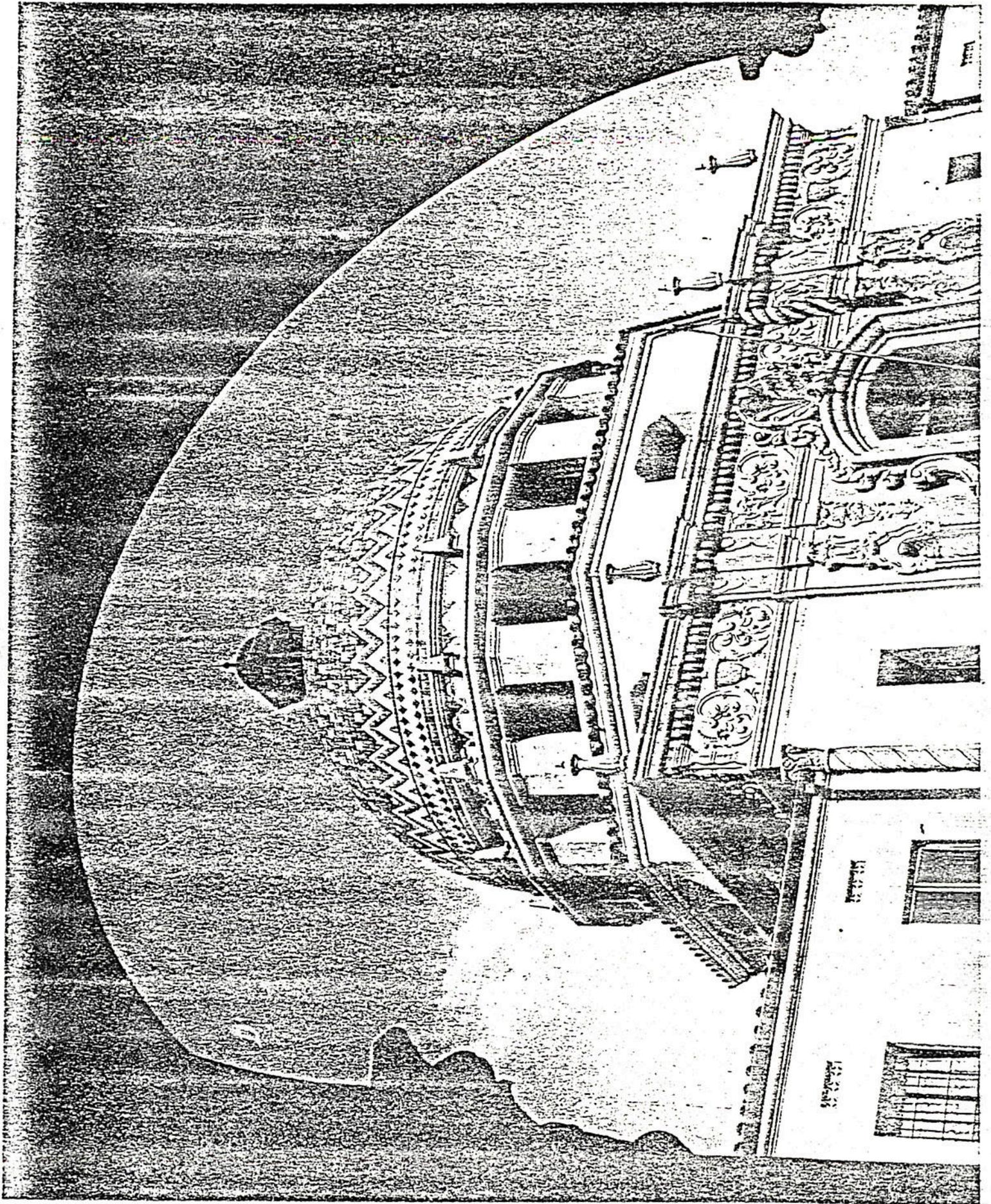
Pima County Courthouse
Arizona

looking West

Date: 1977

Negative at Az Historical Society

#3



Pima County Court House

June, 1977

Viewed looking East

Photo by A.C. Williamson, Pima County Board
of Supervisors

Key on file @ Arizona Historical Society

Tucson, AZ

(4)

Pima County Courthouse
Arizona
Looking East
Date: 1977
Negative at Az Historical Society

#4



(b)

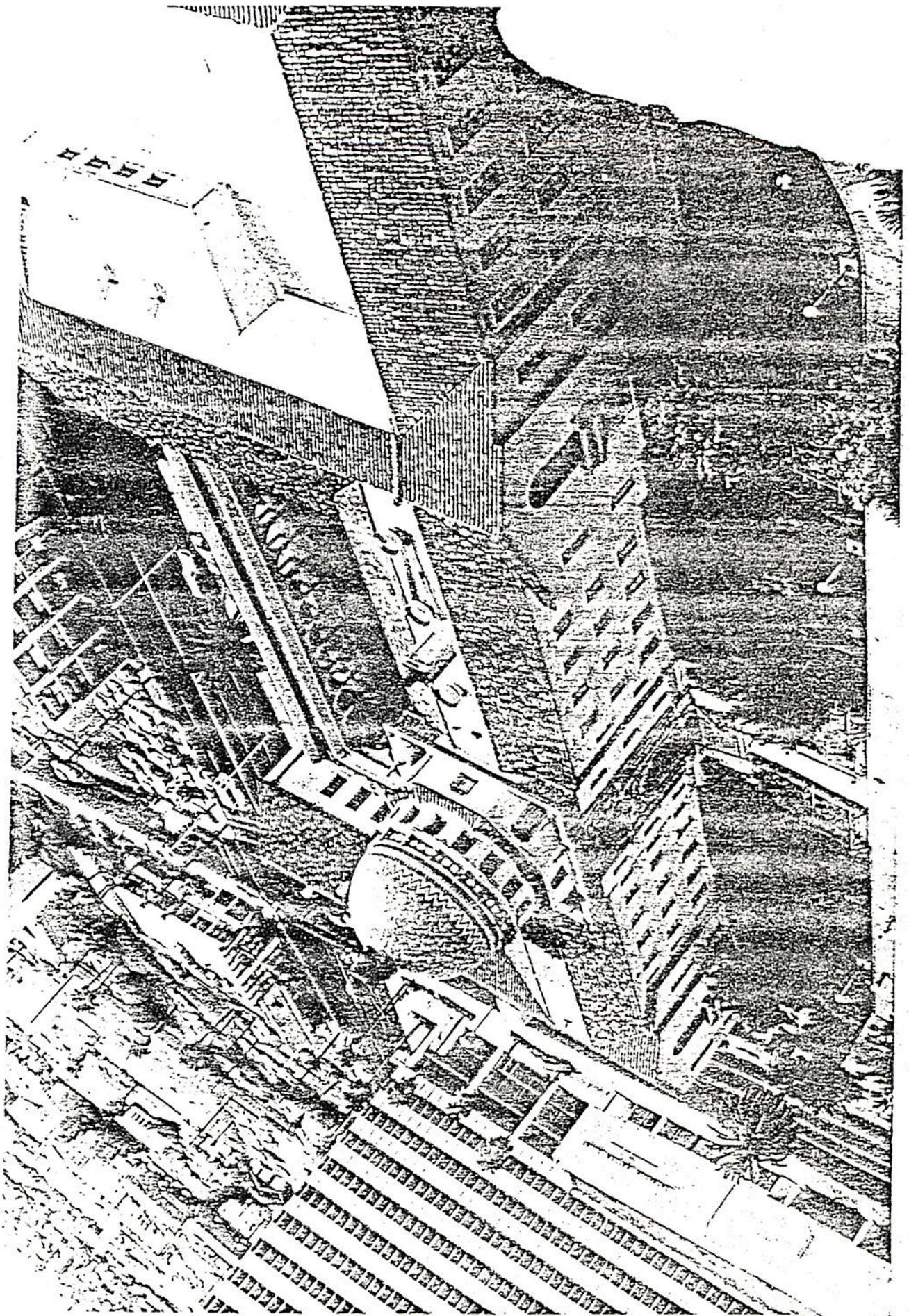
June, 1977

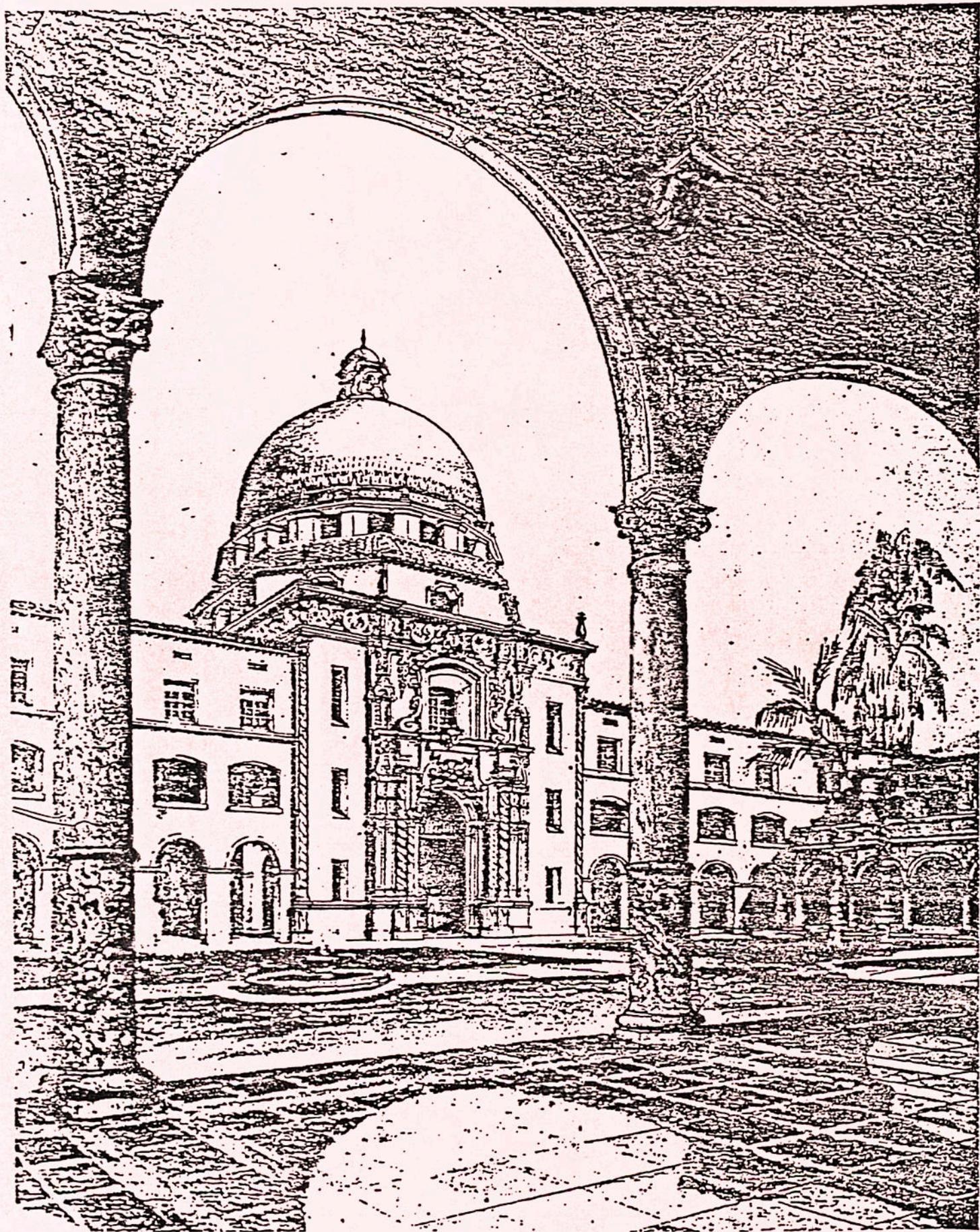
Viewed from Pima County Admin Bldg.
looking Northwest

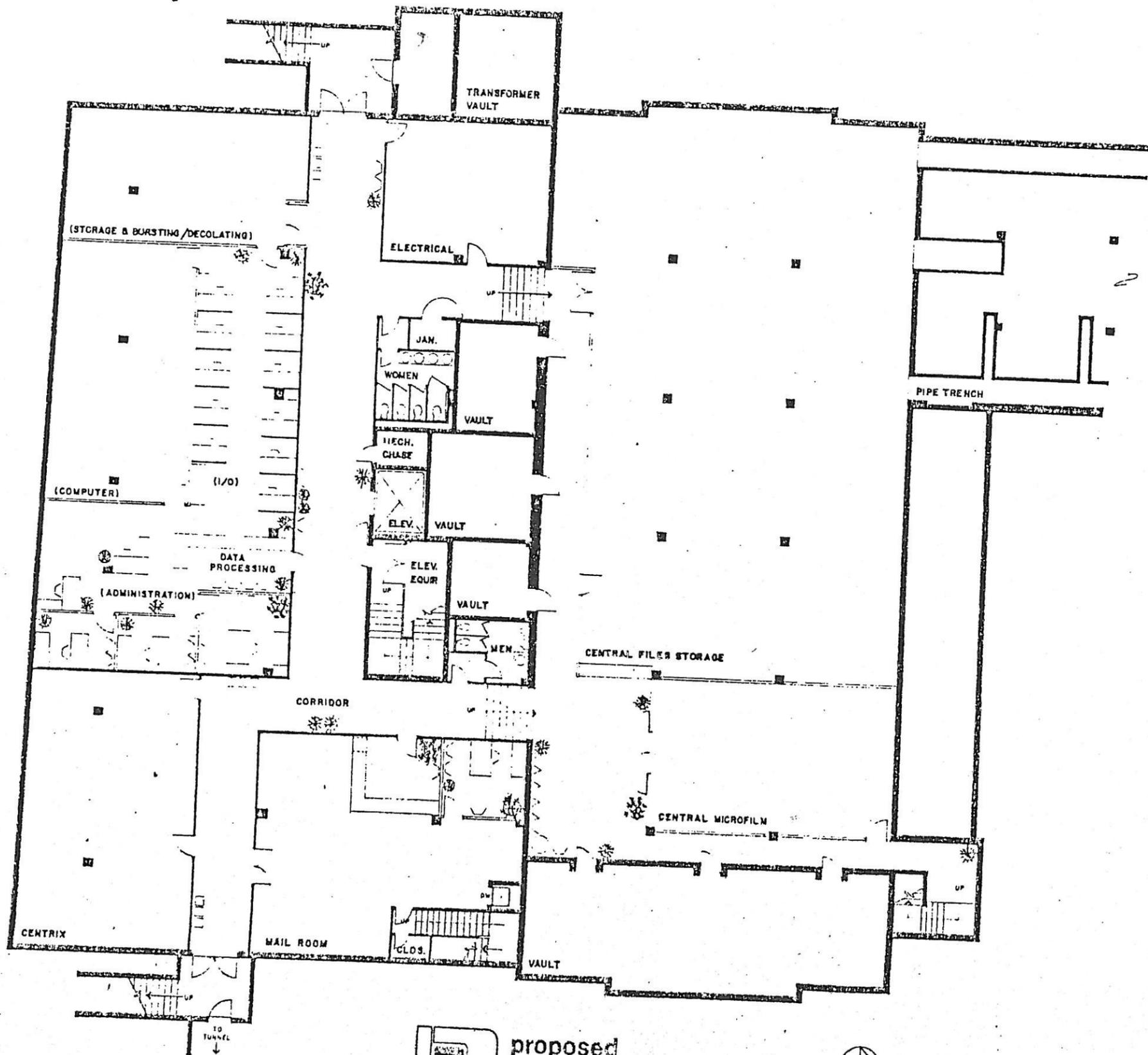
Photographed by A. C. Williamson, Pima County
Board of Supervisors

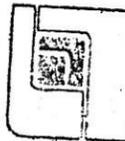
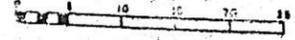
File e Arizona Historical Society
Tucson, Az

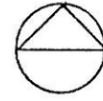
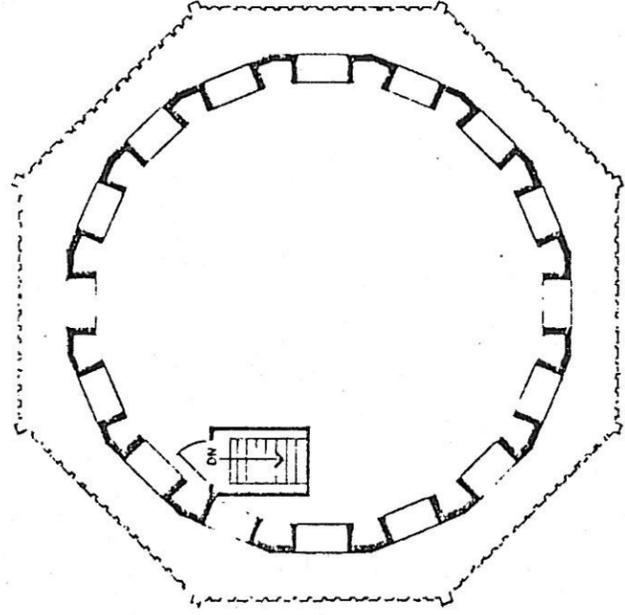
Pima County Courthouse
Arizona
aerial view, looking N.W.
Date: 1977
Negative at Arizona Historical
Society



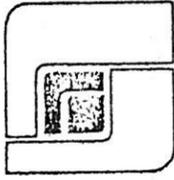
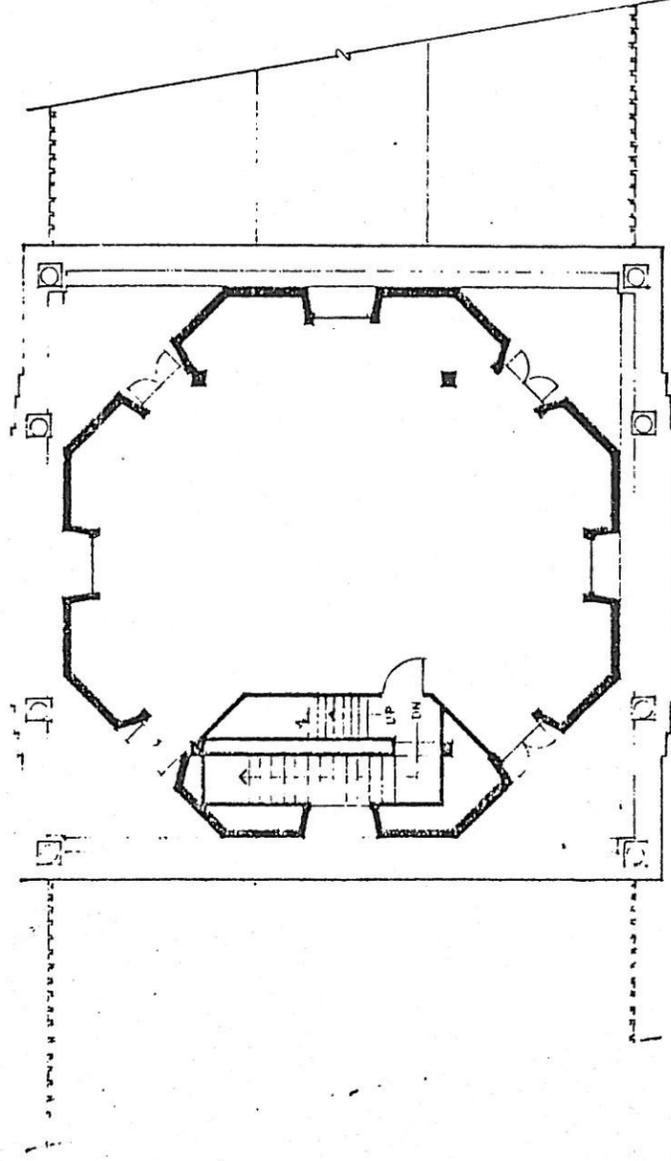





**proposed
BASEMENT FLOOR PLAN**


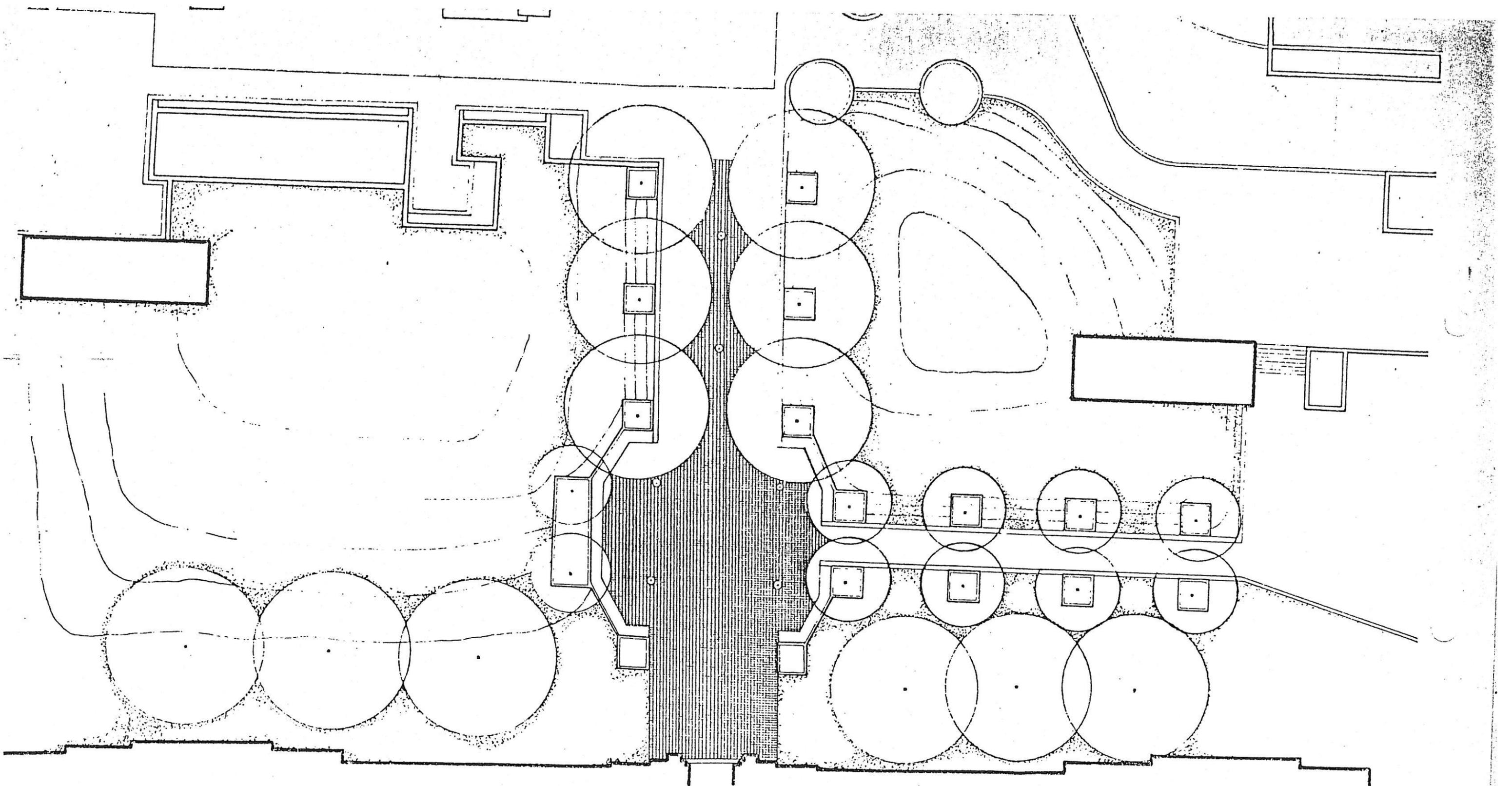



DOME FLOOR PLAN

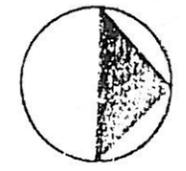


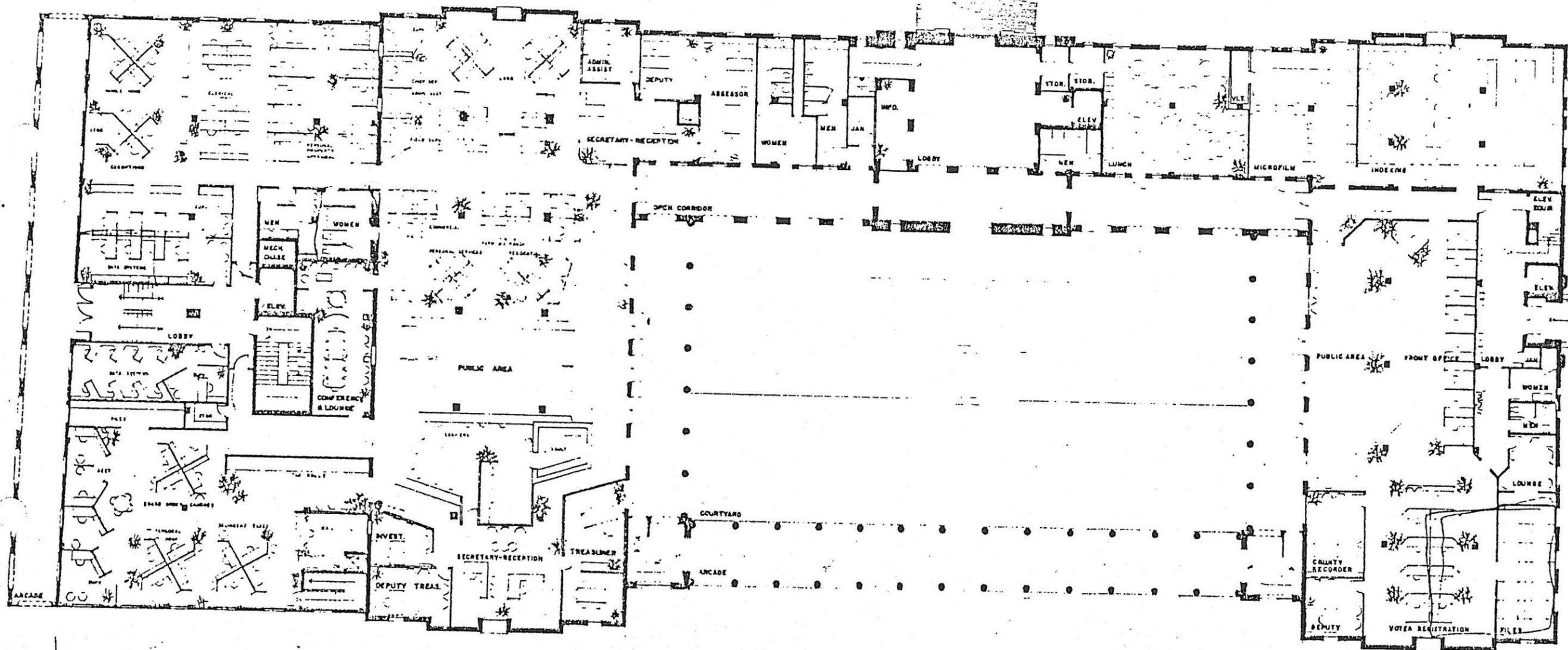
FOURTH FLOOR PLAN

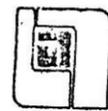
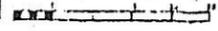




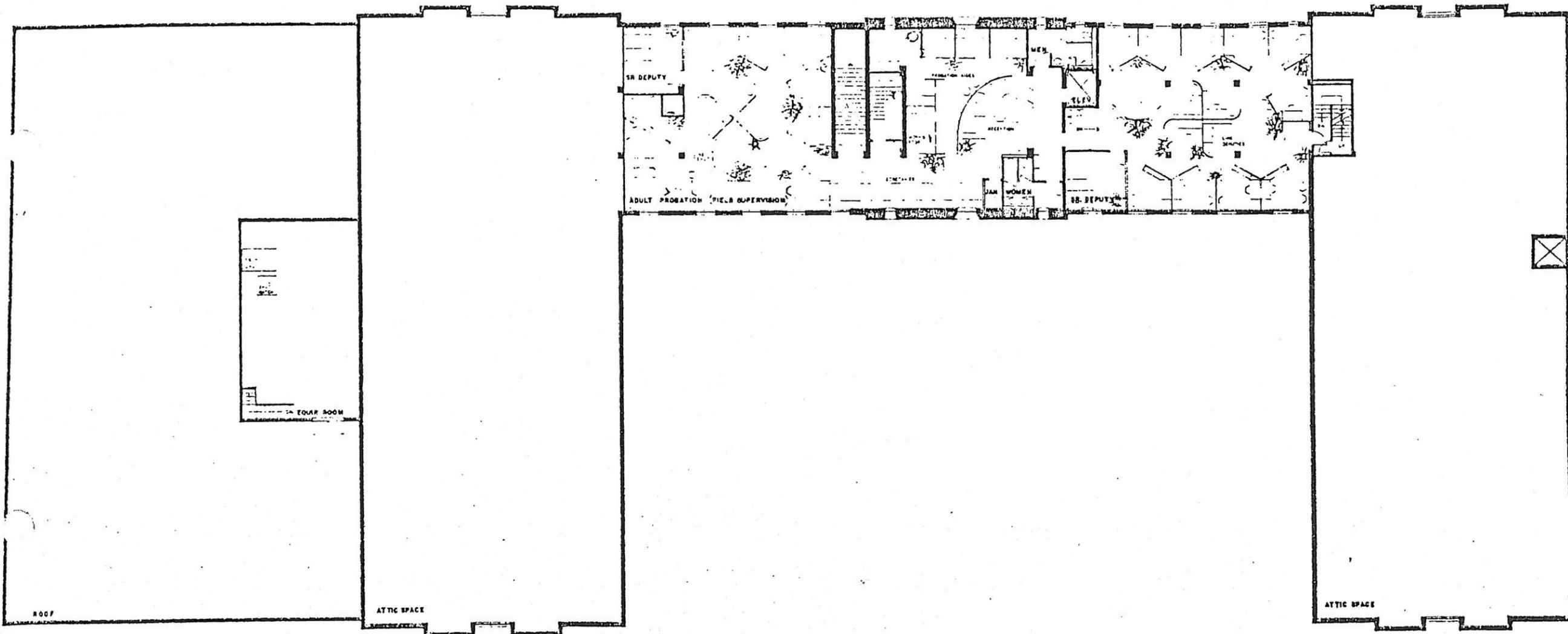
COUNTY COURT HOUSE






 proposed
FIRST FLOOR PLAN






 proposed
THIRD FLOOR PLAN

